

TITLE 32. FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
CHAPTER 9. RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE BROKERS, LENDERS, AND LOAN
ORIGINATORS

Part 1. Montana Mortgage Broker, Mortgage Lender, and Mortgage Loan
Originator Licensing Act

32-9-101. Short title and purpose. (1) This part may be cited as the "Montana Mortgage Broker, Mortgage Lender, and Mortgage Loan Originator Licensing Act".

(2) The legislature recognizes that buying or financing a home is one of the largest, most complicated, and vitally important decisions facing consumers in Montana. Therefore, the legislature finds it desirable to license certain persons in the residential mortgage industry that are outside of the traditional banking industry and that have a direct involvement in consumers' financial welfare, including mortgage brokers, mortgage lenders, and mortgage loan originators, to promote honesty, education, and professionalism, to ensure the availability and diversity of residential mortgage funding, and to protect Montana consumers and the stability of Montana's economy.

(3) The legislature finds that it is necessary to implement the federal Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 and, together with the residential mortgage industry, recognizes the importance of statewide participation in the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 516, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-102. License requirement -- registration. (1) Unless exempt under [32-9-104](#), a person may not act as a mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan originator with respect to any residential real estate located in Montana unless licensed under the provisions of this part.

(2) Any person acting as a mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan originator under this part is required to be licensed and registered with and maintain a valid unique identifier issued by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry by the date set forth in [32-9-105](#)(4).

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 516, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 301, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-103. Definitions. As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Administrative or clerical tasks" mean the receipt, collection, and distribution of information common for the processing or underwriting of a residential mortgage loan and communication with a consumer to obtain information necessary for the processing or underwriting of a residential mortgage loan to the extent that the communication does not include offering or negotiating loan rates or terms or counseling consumers about residential mortgage loan rates or terms.

(2) "Approved education course" means any course approved by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry.

(3) "Approved test provider" means any test provider approved by the nationwide

mortgage licensing system and registry.

(4) "Bona fide third party" means a person that provides services relative to residential mortgage loan transactions. The term includes but is not limited to real estate appraisers and credit reporting agencies.

(5) "Borrower" means a person seeking a residential mortgage loan.

(6) "Branch office" means a location other than a licensee's principal place of business.

(7) (a) "Control" means the power, directly or indirectly, to direct the management or policies of an entity, whether through ownership of securities, by contract, or otherwise.

(b) A person is presumed to control an entity if that person:

(i) is a director, general partner, or executive officer;

(ii) directly or indirectly has the right to vote 10% or more of a class of a voting security or has the power to sell or direct the sale of 10% or more of a class of voting securities;

(iii) in the case of a limited liability company, is a managing member; or

(iv) in the case of a partnership, has the right to receive upon dissolution or has contributed 10% or more of the capital.

(8) "Department" means the department of administration provided for in [2-15-1001](#), acting through its division of banking and financial institutions.

(9) "Depository institution" has the meaning provided in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, 12 U.S.C. 1813(c), and includes any credit union.

(10) "Designated manager" means a mortgage loan originator with at least 3 years of experience as a mortgage loan originator or registered mortgage loan originator who is designated by an entity as the individual responsible for the operation of a particular location that is under the designated manager's full management, supervision, and control.

(11) "Entity" means a business organization, including a sole proprietorship.

(12) "Escrow account" means a depository account with a financial institution that provides deposit insurance and that is separate and distinct from any personal, business, or other account of the mortgage lender and is maintained solely for the holding and payment of escrow funds.

(13) "Escrow funds" means funds entrusted to a mortgage lender by a borrower for payment of taxes, insurance, or other payments to be made in connection with the servicing of a loan.

(14) "Federal banking agency" means the board of governors of the federal reserve system, the comptroller of the currency, the director of the office of thrift supervision, the national credit union administration, or the federal deposit insurance corporation.

(15) "Immediate family member" means a spouse, child, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, stepchild, stepbrother, or stepsister and includes parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, and sibling relationships based upon adoptive relationships.

(16) "Individual" means a natural person.

(17) "Licensee" means a person authorized pursuant to this part to engage in activities regulated by this part. The term does not include an individual who is a registered mortgage loan originator.

(18) "Loan commitment" means a statement transmitted in writing or electronically by a mortgage lender setting forth the terms and conditions upon which the mortgage

lender is willing to make a particular residential mortgage loan to a particular borrower.

(19) "Loan processor or underwriter" means an individual who performs administrative or clerical tasks as an employee, subsequent to the receipt of a residential mortgage loan application, at the direction of and subject to the supervision of a licensed mortgage loan originator or registered mortgage loan originator.

(20) "Mortgage" means a consensual interest in real property located in Montana, including improvements, securing a debt evidenced by a mortgage, trust indenture, deed of trust, or other lien on real property.

(21) (a) "Mortgage broker" means an entity that obtains, attempts to obtain, or assists in obtaining a mortgage loan for a borrower from a mortgage lender in return for consideration or in anticipation of consideration.

(b) For purposes of this subsection (21), attempting to or assisting in obtaining a mortgage loan includes referring a borrower to a mortgage lender or mortgage broker, soliciting or offering to solicit a mortgage loan on behalf of a borrower, or negotiating or offering to negotiate the terms or conditions of a mortgage loan with a mortgage lender on behalf of a borrower.

(22) "Mortgage lender" means an entity that closes a residential mortgage loan, advances funds, offers to advance funds, or commits to advancing funds for a mortgage loan applicant.

(23) (a) "Mortgage loan originator" means an individual who for compensation or gain or in the expectation of compensation or gain:

- (i) takes a residential mortgage loan application; or
- (ii) offers or negotiates terms of a residential mortgage loan.

(b) The term does not include an individual:

(i) engaged solely as a loan processor or underwriter, except as provided in [32-9-129](#); or

(ii) involved solely in extensions of credit relating to timeshare plans, as that term is defined in 11 U.S.C. 101(53D).

(24) "Mortgage servicer loss mitigation specialist" means a person who on behalf of the person making the residential mortgage loan works with a borrower who is in default or in a foreseeable likelihood of a default to modify or refinance either temporarily or permanently the borrower's obligations in order to avoid foreclosure or otherwise to finalize collection through the foreclosure process.

(25) "Nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry" means a mortgage licensing system developed and maintained by the conference of state bank supervisors and the American association of residential mortgage regulators for the registration of state-licensed mortgage brokers, state-licensed mortgage lenders, state-licensed mortgage loan originators, and registered mortgage loan originators.

(26) "Nontraditional mortgage product" means any mortgage product other than a 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage.

(27) "Person" means an individual, sole proprietorship, corporation, company, limited liability company, partnership, limited liability partnership, trust, or association.

(28) "Real estate brokerage activities" means activities that involve offering or providing real estate brokerage services to the public, including:

(a) acting as a real estate salesperson or real estate broker for a buyer, seller, lessor, or lessee of real property;

(b) bringing together parties interested in the sale, purchase, lease, rental, or exchange of real property;

(c) negotiating, on behalf of any party, any portion of a contract relating to the sale, purchase, lease, rental, or exchange of real property other than in connection with providing financing with respect to the transaction;

(d) engaging in any activity for which a person is required to be licensed as a real estate salesperson or real estate broker under Montana law; or

(e) offering to engage in any activity or act in any capacity described in subsections (28)(a) through (28)(d).

(29) "Registered mortgage loan originator" means an individual who:

(a) meets the definition of mortgage loan originator and is an employee of:

(i) a depository institution;

(ii) a subsidiary that is owned and controlled by a depository institution and regulated by a federal banking agency; or

(iii) an institution regulated by the farm credit administration; and

(b) is registered with and maintains a unique identifier through the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry.

(30) "Residential mortgage loan" means a loan primarily for personal, family, or household use secured by a mortgage, deed of trust, or other equivalent consensual security interest on a dwelling, as defined in section 103(v) of the Truth in Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. 1602(v), or on residential real estate located in Montana.

(31) "Residential real estate" means any real property located in the state of Montana upon which is constructed a dwelling or upon which a dwelling is intended to be built within a 2-year period, subject to 24 CFR 3500.5(b)(4). The borrower's intent to construct a dwelling is presumed unless the borrower has submitted a written, signed statement to the contrary.

(32) "Trust account" means a depository account with a financial institution that provides deposit insurance that is separate and distinct from any personal, business, or other account of the mortgage broker or the mortgage lender and that is maintained solely for the holding and payment of bona fide third-party fees.

(33) "Ultimate equity owner" means an individual who, directly or indirectly, owns or controls an ownership interest in a corporation, a foreign corporation, an alien business organization, or any other form of business organization, regardless of whether the individual owns or controls an ownership interest, individually or in any combination, through one or more persons or one or more proxies, powers of attorney, nominees, corporations, associations, partnerships, trusts, joint-stock companies, or other entities or devices.

(34) "Unique identifier" means a number or other identifier assigned by protocols established by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry.

History: En. Sec. 3, Ch. 516, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 136, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 498, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-104. Exemptions -- proof of exemption. (1) The provisions of this part do not apply to:

(a) an entity that is an agency of the federal, state, or municipal government;

- (b) an entity described in [32-9-103](#)(29)(a)(i) through (29)(a)(iii);
- (c) a registered mortgage loan originator when acting for an entity described in [32-9-103](#)(29)(a)(i) through (29)(a)(iii);
- (d) an individual who offers or negotiates terms of a residential mortgage loan with or on behalf of an immediate family member of that individual;
- (e) a person who offers, negotiates, or provides financing in conjunction with the sale of real property owned by that person and that is secured by a contract for deed, mortgage, deed of trust, or other equivalent security interest on the real property sold;
- (f) a loan that is made by an entity to an employee of the entity if the proceeds of the loan are used to assist the employee in meeting the employee's housing needs;
- (g) an entity engaged solely in commercial real estate lending;
- (h) an entity qualified as a pension plan under 26 U.S.C. 401 if the plan makes residential mortgages only to the plan's participants;
- (i) the federal national mortgage association, the federal home loan mortgage corporation, and the government national mortgage association;
- (j) a 501(c)(3) corporation, which is not otherwise engaged in or holding itself out to the public as being engaged in the mortgage loan business, that makes mortgage loans to promote home ownership or improvements for bona fide low-income individuals;
- (k) a person that performs only real estate brokerage activities and is licensed or registered pursuant to [37-51-301](#) unless the person is compensated by a mortgage lender, a mortgage broker, or a mortgage loan originator or an agent of the mortgage lender, mortgage broker, or mortgage loan originator;
- (l) a licensed attorney who negotiates the terms of a residential mortgage loan on behalf of a client as an ancillary matter to the attorney's representation of the client unless the attorney is compensated by a mortgage lender, mortgage broker, or mortgage loan originator or any agent of the mortgage lender, mortgage broker, or mortgage loan originator; or
- (m) a licensed certified public accountant or a licensed public accountant who negotiates the terms of a residential mortgage loan on behalf of a client as an ancillary matter to providing public accounting services to the client unless the accountant is compensated by a mortgage lender, a mortgage broker, or a mortgage loan originator or an agent of the mortgage lender, mortgage broker, or mortgage loan originator.

(2) The department or the secretary of housing and urban development may exempt from this part mortgage servicer loss mitigation specialists if the department or the secretary of housing and urban development determines by guideline, interpretation, or rule that an exemption of a mortgage servicer loss mitigation specialist is not in violation of the Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act, Title V of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act, Public Law 110-289.

(3) The burden of proving an exemption under this section is on the person claiming the exemption. The department shall create a form for requesting an exemption.

History: En. Sec. 4, Ch. 516, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 301, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-105. Overall licensing requirements for mortgage brokers, mortgage lenders, and mortgage loan originators. (1) The department is authorized to participate in the

nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry and shall require mortgage lenders, mortgage brokers, and mortgage loan originators to apply for state licensure on applications approved by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry by the dates set forth in subsection (4).

(2) The department may establish requirements as necessary to comply with the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry, including:

(a) payment of nonrefundable fees to apply for, maintain, and renew licenses through the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry;

(b) renewal or reporting dates;

(c) procedures for amending or surrendering a license; and

(d) requirements pertaining to any other activity necessary for participation in the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry.

(3) The state portion of the licensing fees collected by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry under this section must be deposited into the department's account in the state special revenue fund to be used for administering this part.

(4) In order to facilitate an orderly transition to licensing and minimize disruption in the mortgage marketplace, the implementation date of subsection (1) is:

(a) April 1, 2010, for all new applicants applying after July 1, 2009;

(b) June 30, 2010, for all licensees with current licenses as of July 1, 2009; and

(c) for mortgage servicer loss mitigation specialists, if not exempt under [32-9-104](#)(2), a date as set by the department by rule.

(5) The provisions of this part apply to the activities of retail sellers of manufactured homes and recreational vehicles to the extent determined by the United States department of housing and urban development through guidelines, regulations, or interpretive letters.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-106. Dual licensure. An entity may be simultaneously licensed as a mortgage lender and a mortgage broker provided that the entity meets all requirements for licensure as a mortgage lender and a mortgage broker.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-107. Prelicensing education requirements for mortgage loan originators. (1) An individual seeking a mortgage loan originator's license shall complete at least 20 hours of approved education courses, which must include:

(a) at least 3 hours of training on federal law and regulations;

(b) 3 hours of training in ethics, including instruction on fraud, consumer protection, and fair lending issues; and

(c) 2 hours of training related to lending standards for the nontraditional mortgage product marketplace.

(2) The prelicensing education courses that comply with the requirements of subsection (1) and that are approved by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry for any other state must be accepted with respect to the completion of prelicensing education requirements in Montana.

(3) If allowed by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry, the department is authorized to certify to the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry that continuing education hours that were previously approved by the department have been completed by a mortgage loan originator.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-108. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 516, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 498, L. 2007.

32-9-109. Experience requirements. (1) (a) An individual may not act as a designated manager without a minimum of 3 years of experience working as a mortgage loan originator or in a related field.

(b) An individual applying for a license as a mortgage loan originator must have a minimum of 6 months of experience working in a related field.

(2) The department shall by rule establish what constitutes work in a related field.

History: En. Sec. 6, Ch. 516, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 301, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 498, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-110. Examination requirements for mortgage loan originators. (1) An individual seeking a mortgage loan originator's license shall submit to an examination.

(2) In order to meet the examination requirement referred to in subsection (1), an individual shall pass, in accordance with the standards established under this section, a qualified written exam developed by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry that is administered by an approved test provider.

(3) A written examination may not be treated as a qualified written examination for purposes of this section unless the exam adequately measures the applicant's knowledge and comprehension in appropriate subject areas, including but not limited to:

(a) ethics;

(b) federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to mortgage origination; and

(c) federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to fraud, consumer protection, the nontraditional mortgage product marketplace, and fair lending issues.

(4) An individual may not be considered to have passed a qualified examination unless the individual achieves an exam score of at least 75%.

(5) An individual may retake a test three consecutive times with each consecutive test being taken at least 30 days after the previous testing date.

(6) An individual who fails three consecutive tests may not take the test for at least 6 months from the date of failing the third test.

(7) A licensed mortgage loan originator who fails to maintain a valid license for a period of 5 years shall retake the test. The 5-year period may not take into account any time during which the person is a registered mortgage loan originator.

History: En. Sec. 7, Ch. 516, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 498, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 10, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-111. Repealed. Sec. 18, Ch. 498, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 8, Ch. 516, L. 2003.

32-9-112. Application for mortgage broker, mortgage lender, and mortgage loan originator license. (1) An applicant under this part shall apply for a state license in a form prescribed by the department that complies with the requirements of the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry. Each form must contain content as set forth by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry and may be changed or updated by the department as necessary to comply with the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry.

(2) The department may establish a relationship or contract with the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry or another entity designated by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry to collect and maintain records and process transaction fees or other fees related to licensees or other persons subject to this part.

(3) An applicant shall furnish information to the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry concerning the applicant's identity, including but not limited to:

(a) fingerprints for submission to the federal bureau of investigation and any governmental agency or entity authorized to receive information for a state, national, and international criminal history background check;

(b) legal name, birth date, and social security number for submission to the criminal investigation bureau of the Montana department of justice as authorized for a state criminal history background check; and

(c) personal history and experience in a form prescribed by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry, including submission of authorization for the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry and the department to obtain:

(i) an independent credit report from a consumer reporting agency described in section 603(p) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681a(p); and

(ii) information related to administrative, civil, or criminal findings by a governmental jurisdiction.

(4) To reduce the points of contact that the federal bureau of investigation may be required to maintain for purposes of subsection (3), the department may use the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry as a channeling agent for requesting information from and distributing information to the United States department of justice or other governmental agencies.

(5) To reduce the points of contact that the department may be required to maintain for purposes of subsection (3), the department may use the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry as a channeling agent for requesting and distributing information to and from any source directed by the department.

(6) The department shall issue a license to an applicant that has met all the requirements of this section, has paid the fee required under [32-9-117](#), and is not determined ineligible under [32-9-120](#).

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-113. Application for licensure. In order for an entity to be considered for state licensure, each of the following is required to independently meet the requirements established in [32-9-120](#)(1)(a) through (1)(d):

- (1) ultimate equity owners of 25% or more of the applicant if the equity owners are individuals;
- (2) control persons of the applicant if the control persons are individuals; and
- (3) individuals that control, directly or indirectly, the election of 25% or more of the members of the board of directors of the entity.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-114. Provisional licenses and previously licensed persons. The department may establish by rule licensing requirements, fees, and interim procedures for licensing and acceptance of applications for the purposes of implementing an orderly and efficient licensing process. The department may by rule establish expedited review and licensing procedures for a previously licensed person.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-115. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 9, Ch. 516, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 136, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 498, L. 2007.

32-9-116. Employment of mortgage loan originator. (1) A mortgage loan originator may transact business only for an employing mortgage broker or one employing mortgage lender licensed in accordance with the provisions of this part. Each original license issued to a mortgage loan originator must be provided to and maintained by the employing mortgage broker or employing mortgage lender at the employing licensee's main office. A copy of the mortgage loan originator's license must be displayed at the office where that mortgage loan originator principally transacts business.

(2) If the employment of a mortgage loan originator is terminated, the mortgage broker or the mortgage lender shall return the mortgage loan originator's license to the department within 5 business days after the termination and remove sponsorship of the mortgage loan originator on the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry within 5 business days of the termination. For a period of 6 months after the termination of employment, the mortgage loan originator may request the transfer of the license to another mortgage broker or mortgage lender by complying with the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry procedures and paying a fee established by the department by rule. The removal of sponsorship of the license of any mortgage loan originator that is not transferred to another mortgage broker or mortgage lender terminates the right of the mortgage loan originator to engage in any residential mortgage loan origination activity until nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry procedures have been followed to sponsor the license. The license of any mortgage loan originator that has been removed from sponsorship and not transferred within 6 months of termination of employment must be canceled.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 516, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 13, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-117. Fees -- license renewal -- disposition of fees. (1) (a) Except as provided in subsection (1)(b), an entity seeking licensure as a mortgage broker shall pay an initial nonrefundable license application fee of \$500 and an additional application fee of \$250 for any branch location. A mortgage loan originator shall pay an initial nonrefundable license application fee of \$400. An entity seeking licensure as a mortgage lender shall pay an initial nonrefundable license application fee of \$750 and an additional application fee of \$250 for any branch location. An applicant shall pay one-half of these initial nonrefundable license application fees for any license period of less than 6 months.

(b) An individual who is seeking licensure as a mortgage loan originator and who is the owner of an entity that is seeking licensure as a mortgage broker shall pay a single initial nonrefundable license application fee of \$500.

(2) The license of a mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan originator is valid for a 1-year period. A state licensee shall submit a renewal application and pay to the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry a renewal fee in an amount set by the department by rule. The department shall establish by rule the requirements for renewal applications. The department shall establish a single renewal fee for individuals and entities described in subsection (1)(b). An individual described in subsection (1)(b) may act as a designated manager under [32-9-122](#) and is not subject to any additional license fees for acting in the capacity of a designated manager. The fees set by the department must be commensurate with the costs of the program. Failure to submit required information or fees within the time prescribed means the license automatically expires. The department may adopt procedures for reinstatement of expired licenses that are consistent with the standards established by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry.

(3) An application for renewal must be accompanied by evidence that the continuing education requirements provided for in [32-9-118](#) have been met and that there has not been a material change in the status of the licensee in the preceding 12 months. An application for renewal also must demonstrate that the licensee continues to meet the standards for licensure under this part and that the licensee has paid all fees for renewal of the license.

(4) The state portion of the fees collected under this section must be deposited in the department's state special revenue fund to be used by the department in administering the provisions of this part.

(5) An applicant for a mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan originator license renewal shall apply for state licensure on an application form approved by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry.

History: En. Sec. 11, Ch. 516, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 368, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 6, Ch. 498, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-118. Continuing education requirements for mortgage loan originators. (1) All mortgage loan originators shall complete and submit to the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry evidence of at least 12 hours of continuing education every year at the time they submit their license renewal applications. The 12 hours of

continuing education must be obtained in an approved education course.

(2) The 12 hours of education must include at least:

(a) 3 hours of training on federal laws and regulations;

(b) 2 hours of training in ethics, including instruction on fraud prevention, consumer protection, and fair lending issues; and

(c) 2 hours of training related to lending standards for the nontraditional mortgage product marketplace.

(3) A person who has successfully completed the education requirements that comply with the requirements of subsection (1) and that are approved by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry for any other state must be given credit toward completion of continuing education requirements in Montana.

(4) A licensed mortgage loan originator who subsequently becomes unlicensed shall complete the continuing education requirements for the last year in which the license was held prior to issuance of a new or renewed license.

History: En. Sec. 12, Ch. 516, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 18, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-119. Repealed. Sec. 34, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

History: En. Sec. 10, Ch. 498, L. 2007.

32-9-120. Denial of mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan

originator license application or license renewal. (1) The department may not issue or renew any mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan originator license if any of the following facts are found during the application procedure:

(a) the applicant has ever had a mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan originator license or their equivalent revoked in any governmental jurisdiction. A subsequent formal vacation of a revocation means that the revocation may not be considered a revocation. The department may by order vacate a revocation of a license and enter an appropriate order.

(b) the applicant has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to a felony in a domestic, foreign, or military court during the 7-year period preceding the date of the application for licensing or renewal or at any time preceding the date of application if the felony involved an act of fraud, dishonesty, a breach of trust, or money laundering. The pardon of a conviction is not a conviction for the purposes of this subsection (1)(b).

(c) the applicant has failed to demonstrate financial responsibility, character, and general fitness to command the confidence of the community and to warrant a determination that the mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan originator will operate honestly, fairly, and efficiently within the purposes of this section;

(d) the applicant has not met the surety bond or net worth requirement as required pursuant to [32-9-123](#);

(e) the applicant has not completed the prelicensing education requirement described in [32-9-107](#);

(f) the applicant has not passed a written test that meets the test requirements described in [32-9-110](#);

(g) the applicant made a material misstatement of fact or material omission of fact in

the application.

(2) The department shall determine that the applicant has demonstrated the qualities of financial responsibility, character, and general fitness referred to in subsection (1)(c) if all other requirements for licensure under this section have been satisfied and the department's investigation does not reveal a specific problem on the applicant's part with respect to subsection (1)(c).

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-121. Records maintenance -- advertising requirement. (1) Licensees shall maintain books, accounts, records, and copies of residential mortgage loan files and trust account or escrow account records that are necessary to enable the department to determine whether a licensee is in compliance with the applicable laws and rules. The materials must be maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and good business practices. Each office location must have at least one phone line. Whenever a licensee's usual business location is outside of this state the licensee shall, at its election, either maintain its books and records at a location in this state or reimburse the department for expenses incurred, including but not limited to staff time, transportation, food, and lodging expenses, relating to an examination or investigation under this part.

(2) A mortgage broker or mortgage lender shall maintain a residential mortgage file for a minimum of 5 years from the date of the last activity pertaining to the file. A mortgage broker or mortgage lender shall maintain trust account or escrow account records for a minimum of 5 years.

(3) (a) In any printed, published, e-mail, or internet advertisement for the provision of services, the following information must be included:

(i) a name and license number for each mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan originator advertising as an individual; or

(ii) the name and license number only of the licensed entity when the licensed entity is advertising on its own behalf or as an entity with one or more mortgage brokers, mortgage lenders, or mortgage loan originators also listed.

(b) For the purposes of this subsection (3), advertising does not include stationery or business forms but does include business cards. A business card must include a mortgage broker's, a mortgage lender's, or a mortgage loan originator's license number but is not required to list the entity's license number if the entity's name is listed.

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 516, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 136, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 7, Ch. 498, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 19, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-122. Designated manager and branch license requirements. (1) A mortgage broker or mortgage lender entity shall apply for a license for a main office and for every branch office through the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry and maintain a unique identifier.

(2) A mortgage broker entity shall designate to the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry an individual who is licensed by this state as a mortgage loan originator to serve as the designated manager of the main office and a separate

designated manager to serve at each branch location.

(3) A mortgage lender entity shall designate to the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry for each office that originates a residential mortgage loan an individual who is licensed as a mortgage loan originator as the designated manager of the main office and shall designate a separate designated manager to serve each branch location.

(4) A designated manager must have 3 years of experience as either a mortgage loan originator or a registered mortgage loan originator.

(5) A designated manager is responsible for the operation of the business at the location under the designated manager's full charge, supervision, and control.

(6) A mortgage broker or mortgage lender entity is responsible for the conduct of a designated manager or mortgage loan originator while the designated manager or mortgage loan originator is employed by the mortgage broker or mortgage lender entity, including for violations of federal laws that are applicable to the origination of residential mortgage loans, violations of this part, and violations of any administrative rule adopted pursuant to this part.

(7) A designated manager is responsible for conduct that violates federal laws that are applicable to the origination of residential mortgage loans, violations of this part, and violations of any administrative rule adopted pursuant to this part. The designated manager's responsibility includes conduct by the designated manager and each mortgage loan originator employed by the entity while the designated manager is employed at the location that the designated manager manages.

(8) If the designated manager ceases to act in that capacity, within 15 days the mortgage broker or mortgage loan originator shall designate another individual licensed as a mortgage broker as designated manager and shall submit information to the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry establishing that the subsequent designated manager is in compliance with the provisions of this part.

(9) If the employment of a designated manager is terminated, the mortgage broker or mortgage lender shall return the designated manager's license to the department within 5 business days of the termination and remove the sponsorship of the designated manager on the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry within 5 business days of the termination.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 516, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 368, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 8, Ch. 498, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 20, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-123. Surety bond or net worth requirement -- notice of legal action. (1) (a) A mortgage loan originator must be covered by a surety bond in accordance with this section. If a mortgage loan originator is an employee of or exclusive agent for a licensed mortgage lender or mortgage broker, the surety bond of the licensed mortgage lender or mortgage broker may be used in lieu of a mortgage loan originator's surety bond.

(b) The department shall use the proceeds of the surety bonds to reimburse borrowers or bona fide third parties who successfully demonstrate a financial loss because of an act of a mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan originator that violates the provisions of this part.

(2) (a) A mortgage broker or mortgage lender is required to maintain one surety bond

for each entity license.

(b) The amount of the required surety bond must be calculated by combining the annual loan production amounts for all persons originating residential mortgage loans and for all business locations of the mortgage broker or mortgage lender and must be in the following amount:

(i) \$25,000 for a combined annual loan production that does not exceed \$50 million a year;

(ii) \$50,000 for annual loan production of \$50 million but not exceeding \$100 million a year; or

(iii) \$100,000 for annual loan production of more than \$100 million a year.

(3) (a) In lieu of a surety bond, a mortgage broker may meet a minimum net worth requirement.

(b) Minimum net worth must be maintained in an amount determined by the department that reflects the dollar amount of loans originated.

(c) The department shall adopt rules with respect to the requirements for minimum net worth as are necessary to accomplish the purposes of this part.

(4) Evidence that a mortgage broker is approved by the department of housing and urban development to originate loans insured by the federal housing administration must be considered as satisfying the net worth requirement provided that the actual net worth determined in the department of housing and urban development's approval is equivalent to the bond amount set forth for the corresponding dollar amount range set forth in subsections (2)(b)(i) through (2)(b)(iii).

(5) A mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan originator shall give notice to the department by certified mail within 15 days of the mortgage broker's, mortgage lender's, or mortgage loan originator's obtaining knowledge of the initiation of an investigation or the entry of a judgment in a criminal or civil action. The notice must be given if the investigation or the legal action is in any state and involves a mortgage broker, mortgage lender, anyone having an ownership interest in a mortgage broker entity or mortgage lender entity, or a mortgage loan originator. In the case of a legal action, the notice must include a copy of the criminal or civil judgment.

History: En. Sec. 15, Ch. 516, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 9, Ch. 498, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 22, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-124. Prohibitions -- required disclosure. (1) A mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan originator may not do any of the following:

(a) retain original documents owned by the borrower and submitted in connection with the loan application;

(b) directly or indirectly employ any scheme to defraud or mislead a borrower, a mortgage lender, or any other person;

(c) make any misrepresentation or deceptive statement in connection with a residential mortgage loan, including but not limited to interest rates, points, costs at closing, or other financing terms or conditions;

(d) fail to pay a bona fide third party later than 30 days after recording of the loan closing documents or 90 days after completion of the bona fide third-party service, whichever is earlier, unless otherwise agreed by the parties;

(e) accept any fees or compensation at closing that were not disclosed as required by state or federal law;

(f) accept any fees or compensation in excess of those allowed by state or federal law;

(g) sign a borrower's application or related documents on behalf of or in lieu of another mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan originator;

(h) (i) assist or aid and abet any person in the conduct of business under this part without a valid license as required under this part; or

(ii) conduct any business covered by the provisions of the Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act, Title V of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, Public Law 110-289, without holding a valid license as required under this part;

(i) fail to comply with this part or rules promulgated under this part or fail to comply with any other state or federal laws, including the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to those laws, applicable to any business authorized by or conducted under this part;

(j) negligently make any false statement or knowingly and willfully make any omission of material fact in connection with any information or reports filed with a government agency or the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry or in connection with any investigation conducted by the department or another governmental agency.

(2) A mortgage lender may not do any of the following:

(a) cause or require a borrower to obtain property insurance coverage in an amount that exceeds the replacement cost of the improvements as established by the property insurer;

(b) disburse the mortgage loan proceeds to a closing agent in any form other than, as applicable:

(i) direct deposit to a borrower's account;

(ii) wire;

(iii) bank or certified check;

(iv) attorney's check drawn on a trust account; or

(v) other form as specifically authorized by applicable law;

(c) disburse the proceeds of a mortgage loan without sufficient collected funds on hand at the time of the disbursement in the account upon which the funds are drawn;

(d) fail to disburse funds in accordance with a loan commitment to make a mortgage loan that was accepted by the borrower;

(e) fail to take the actions required to effect a release of the lender's security interest in the property as described in [71-1-212](#);

(f) advertise that a mortgage applicant will have unqualified access to credit without disclosing what material limitations on the availability of credit exist, such as the percentage of down payment required, that a higher rate or points could be required, or that restrictions as to the maximum principal amount of the mortgage loan offered could apply;

(g) advertise a mortgage loan for which a prevailing rate is indicated in the advertisement unless the advertisement specifically states that the expressed rate could change or not be available at commitment or closing;

(h) advertise mortgage loans, including rates, margins, discounts, points, fees, commissions, or other material information, including material limitations on mortgage loans, unless the person is able to make advertised mortgage loans to a reasonable number of qualified applicants; or

(i) falsely advertise or misuse names in violation of 18 U.S.C. 709.

(3) Prior to providing residential mortgage services to a borrower, the mortgage loan originator working for a mortgage broker, in addition to other disclosures required by this part, subsection (3), and other state and federal laws, shall provide to the borrower a written disclosure containing substantially the following language, which must be signed by the borrower:

"MORTGAGE LOAN ORIGINATION DISCLOSURE

(Name of licensee) is a licensed mortgage loan originator in Montana authorized to provide mortgage loan origination services to you in connection with your real estate loan. Lenders whose loan products we distribute generally provide their loan products to us at a wholesale rate. The rate you pay may be higher.

SECTION 1. NATURE OF RELATIONSHIP. In connection with this mortgage loan:

(1) (name of licensee) is acting as an independent contractor and not as your agent;

(2) (name of licensee) enters into separate independent contractor agreements with various lenders; and

(3) while (name of licensee) seeks to assist you in meeting your financial needs, (name of licensee) does not distribute products of all lenders or investors in the market and cannot guarantee the lowest price or best terms available.

SECTION 2. OUR COMPENSATION.

(1) The retail price (name of licensee) offers you, including the interest rate, total points, and fees, will include (name of licensee's) compensation.

(2) In some cases, (name of licensee) may be paid all of (name of licensee's) compensation by either you or the lender.

(3) Alternatively, (name of licensee) may be paid a portion of (name of licensee's) compensation by both you and the lender. For example, in some cases, if you would rather pay a lower interest rate, you may pay more money in upfront points and fees. Also, in some cases, if you would rather pay less money up front, you may be able to pay some or all of our compensation indirectly through a higher interest rate, in which case (name of licensee) will be paid directly by the lender.

(4) (Name of licensee) may also be paid by the lender based on the value of the mortgage loan or related servicing rights in the market place or based on other services, goods, or facilities performed or provided by (name of licensee) to the lender.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have received a copy of this disclosure."

(4) The disclosure must include the address of the department's division of banking and financial institutions, the division's phone number and website, and a statement informing borrowers that the division can provide information about whether a mortgage broker or mortgage loan originator is licensed as well as other legally available information.

(5) The disclosure must include the state license number and the unique identifier issued by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry for the mortgage loan originator.

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 516, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 11, Ch. 498, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 25, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-125. Trust accounts -- bona fide third-party fees. (1) Every mortgage broker and mortgage lender doing business in this state shall:

(a) maintain a trust account at a federally insured financial institution, and the trust account funds may not be commingled with any other funds of the mortgage broker or mortgage lender;

(b) deposit into the trust account any bona fide third-party fee that the mortgage broker or mortgage lender receives; and

(c) pay third-party fees to a bona fide third party from the trust account unless the borrower, the seller, or another person involved in the transaction pays the bona fide third party directly.

(2) A mortgage broker or mortgage lender may not charge or receive, directly or indirectly, fees for assisting a borrower in obtaining a mortgage until all of the services that the mortgage broker or mortgage lender has agreed to perform for the borrower are completed. A mortgage broker or mortgage lender may not charge a residential loan application fee in excess of the amount allowed by federal law. Prior to completion of services, the fees provided for in subsection (3) incurred by a bona fide third party in assisting the borrower to obtain a mortgage must be paid.

(3) The following fees must be paid by the borrower, the seller, or another person involved in the transaction directly to the bona fide third party providing the services or must be paid by the borrower, the seller, or another person involved in the transaction to the mortgage broker or mortgage lender for payment of services performed by the bona fide third party:

(a) credit report fees;

(b) notary fees;

(c) title search, appraisal, or survey fees;

(d) rate-lock fees not exceeding 3% of the mortgage loan amount; and

(e) fees paid directly by the borrower, the seller, or another person involved in the transaction to a state or federal government agency or instrumentality for purposes of processing a mortgage application relating to a government-sponsored or guaranteed mortgage program.

(4) The department shall by rule define the meaning of "another person involved in the transaction".

History: En. Sec. 17, Ch. 516, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 12, Ch. 498, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 26, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-126. Revocation, suspension, conditioning, and reinstatement of licenses.

(1) The department, upon giving a mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan originator licensee 10 days' written notice, which includes a statement of the grounds for the proposed suspension, conditioning, or revocation, and informing the licensee that the licensee has the right to be heard at an administrative hearing if requested by the licensee, may suspend, condition, or revoke a license if it finds that the licensee has violated any provision of this part.

(2) All notices, hearing schedules, and orders must be mailed to the licensee by certified mail to the address for which the license was issued.

(3) A revocation, suspension, or surrender of a license does not relieve the licensee from civil or criminal liability for acts committed prior to the revocation, suspension, or surrender of the license.

(4) The department may reinstate any suspended license if there is not a fact or condition existing at the time of reinstatement that would have justified the department's refusal to originally issue the license.

(5) The department may by order vacate a revocation of a license and enter an appropriate order.

History: En. Sec. 18, Ch. 516, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 498, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 27, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-127. Compliance of current mortgage brokers, mortgage lenders, and mortgage loan originator licensees with background check and minimum standards -- renewals. (1) Upon application to the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry by a current licensee for renewal of a mortgage broker, a mortgage lender, or a mortgage loan originator license, the applicant shall furnish information concerning the applicant to the nationwide mortgage and licensing system and registry regarding the following:

(a) fingerprints for submission to the federal bureau of investigation and any governmental agency or entity authorized to receive information for a criminal history background check at the state, federal, and international levels;

(b) legal name, birth date, and social security number for submission to the criminal investigation bureau of the Montana department of justice as authorized for a state criminal history background check; and

(c) a written statement of personal history and experience in a form prescribed by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry, including authorization for the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry to obtain:

(i) a current independent credit report obtained from a consumer reporting agency described in section 603(p) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681a(p); and

(ii) information related to any administrative, civil, or criminal findings by any governmental jurisdiction.

(2) To reduce the points of contact that the federal bureau of investigation may be required to maintain for purposes of subsection (1), the department may use the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry as a channeling agent for requesting information from and distributing information to the United States department of justice or other governmental agencies.

(3) To reduce the points of contact that the department may be required to maintain for purposes of subsection (1), the department may use the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry as a channeling agent for requesting and distributing information to and from any source directed by the department.

(4) Upon application to the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry by a current licensee for renewal of a mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan originator license, the department shall commence a supplemental investigation of the

applicant and may not renew any license if any of the following facts are found:

(a) the applicant has ever had a mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan originator license or the equivalent revoked in any governmental jurisdiction. A subsequent formal vacation of a revocation means that the revocation may not be considered a revocation. The department may by order vacate a revocation of a license and enter an appropriate order.

(b) the applicant has been convicted of or pled guilty or nolo contendere to a felony in a domestic, foreign, or military court during the 7-year period preceding the date of the application for renewal or at any time preceding the date of application if the felony involved an act of fraud, dishonesty, a breach of trust, or money laundering. The pardon of a conviction is not a conviction for the purposes of this subsection (4)(b).

(c) the applicant has failed to demonstrate financial responsibility, character, and general fitness to command the confidence of the community and to warrant a determination that the mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan originator will operate honestly, fairly, and efficiently within the purposes of this section;

(d) the applicant has not met the surety bond or net worth requirement as required pursuant to [32-9-123](#);

(e) the applicant has not completed the prelicensing education requirement described in [32-9-107](#);

(f) the applicant has not passed a written test that meets the test requirements described in [32-9-110](#);

(g) the applicant made a material misstatement of fact or material omission of fact in the application.

(5) The department shall determine that the applicant has demonstrated the qualities of financial responsibility, character, and general fitness referred to in subsection (4)(c) if all other requirements for licensure under this section have been satisfied and the department's investigation does not reveal a specific problem on the applicant's part with respect to subsection (4)(c).

History: En. Sec. 16, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-128. Registered agent for mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan originator licensee without physical office in state -- venue. (1) An applicant for a mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan originator license under [32-9-113](#) who does not maintain a physical office within the state shall file, in a form prescribed by the department, an irrevocable consent appointing the department as the registered agent of the applicant for the purpose of receiving service of any lawful process in a noncriminal suit, action, or proceeding against the applicant or its successors, executor, or administrator that is based on an alleged violation of this part or any administrative rule adopted pursuant to this part. Service on the department has the same force and validity as if served personally on the applicant or the person filing the consent.

(2) Service must be made by leaving a copy of the process in the office of the department and is effective only if:

(a) notice of the service and a copy of the process are sent by certified mail to the defendant or respondent at the last-known address on file with the department by the

plaintiff, which may be the department, in an action, suit, or proceeding; and

(b) the plaintiff's affidavit of compliance with this section is filed in the case on or before the return day of the process, if any, or within a time the court allows.

(3) In a judicial action, suit, or proceeding arising under this part or any administrative rule adopted pursuant to this part between the department and a licensee who does not maintain a physical office in this state, venue must be exclusively in Lewis and Clark County.

(4) A notice, hearing schedule, or order must be mailed to the person or licensee by certified mail at the last-known address for which the license was issued or, in the case of an unlicensed person, at the last-known address of the person.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-129. Loan processors and underwriters. (1) A person engaging solely in loan processor or underwriter activities may not represent to the public, through advertising or other means of communication, including the use of business cards, stationery, brochures, signs, rate lists, or other promotional items, that the person can or will perform any of the activities pertaining to originating a residential mortgage loan.

(2) A loan processor or underwriter who is an independent contractor may not engage in mortgage loan originator activities unless licensed as a mortgage loan originator under this part. Each independent contractor loan processor or underwriter licensed as a mortgage loan originator shall maintain a valid unique identifier issued by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry.

History: En. Sec. 5, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-130. Department authority -- rulemaking. (1) The department shall adopt rules necessary to carry out the intent and purposes of this part. The rules adopted are binding on all licensees and enforceable through the power of suspension or revocation of licenses.

(2) The rules must address:

(a) revocation or suspension of licenses for cause;

(b) investigation of applicants, licensees, and unlicensed persons alleged to have violated a provision of this part and handling of complaints made by any person in connection with any business transacted by a licensee;

(c) (i) ensuring that all persons are informed of their right to contest a decision by the department under the Montana Administrative Procedure Act; and

(ii) holding contested case hearings pursuant to the Montana Administrative Procedure Act and issuing cease and desist orders, orders of restitution, and orders for the recovery of administrative costs;

(d) prescribing forms for applications; and

(e) establishing fees for license renewals.

(3) The department may seek a writ or order restraining or enjoining, temporarily or permanently, any act or practice violating any provision of this part.

(4) (a) For the purposes of investigating violations or complaints arising under this part or for the purposes of examination, the department may review, investigate, or

examine any licensee or person subject to this part as often as necessary in order to carry out the purposes of this part.

(b) The commissioner may direct, subpoena, or order the attendance of and may examine under oath any person whose testimony may be required about the subject matter of any examination or investigation and may direct, subpoena, or order the person to produce books, accounts, records, files, and any other documents the commissioner considers relevant to the inquiry.

(5) Each licensee or person subject to this part shall make available to the department upon request the documents and records relating to the operations of the licensee or person. The department may access the documents and records and may interview the officers, principals, mortgage loan originators, employees, independent contractors, agents, or customers of the licensee or person concerning the business of the licensee or person or any other person having knowledge that the department considers relevant.

(6) (a) The department may conduct investigations and examinations for the purposes of initial licensing, license renewal, license suspension, license conditioning, license revocation, or license termination or to determine compliance with this part.

(b) The department has the authority to access, receive, and use any books, accounts, records, files, documents, information, or evidence, including but not limited to:

(i) criminal, civil, and administrative history information, including confidential criminal justice information as defined in [44-5-103](#);

(ii) personal history and experience information, including independent credit reports obtained from a consumer reporting agency described in section 603(p) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act, 15 U.S.C. 1681, et seq.; and

(iii) any other documents, information, or evidence the department considers relevant to an inquiry or investigation regardless of the location, possession, control, or custody of the documents, information, or evidence.

(7) (a) The total cost for any examination or investigation must be in accordance with fees determined by the department by rule pursuant to this section and may include expenses for necessary travel outside the state for the purposes of conducting the examination or investigation. The fees set by the department must be commensurate with the cost of the examination or investigation. All fees collected under this section must be deposited in the department's account in the state special revenue fund to be used by the department to cover the department's cost of conducting examinations and investigations.

(b) The cost of an examination or investigation must be paid by the licensee or person within 30 days after the date of the invoice. Failure to pay the cost of an examination or investigation when due must result in the suspension or revocation of a licensee's license.

(8) (a) The department may:

(i) exchange information with federal and state regulatory agencies, the attorney general, the consumer protection office of the department, and the legislative auditor;

(ii) exchange information other than confidential information with the mortgage asset research institute, inc., and other similar organizations; and

(iii) refer any matter to the appropriate law enforcement agency for prosecution of a

violation of this part.

(b) To carry out the purposes of this section, the department may:

(i) enter into agreements or relationships with other government officials or regulatory associations to improve efficiencies and reduce the regulatory burden by sharing resources, adopting standardized or uniform methods or procedures, and sharing documents, records, information, or evidence obtained under this section;

(ii) retain attorneys, accountants, or other professionals and specialists as examiners, auditors, or investigators to conduct or assist in the conduct of examinations or investigations;

(iii) use, hire, contract, or employ public or privately available analytical systems, methods, or software to examine or investigate the licensee or person subject to this part;

(iv) accept and rely on examination or investigation reports by other government officials, within or outside of this state;

(v) accept audit reports made by an independent certified public accountant for the licensee or person subject to this part if the examination or investigation covers at least in part the same general subject matter as the audit report and may incorporate the audit report in the report of the examination, report of the investigation, or other writing of the department under this part; and

(vi) assess against the licensee or person subject to this part the costs incurred by the department in conducting the examination or investigation.

(c) Except as provided in [32-9-160](#) and subsection (8)(a)(i) of this section, the department shall treat all confidential criminal justice information as confidential unless otherwise required by law.

(9) The department shall prepare, at least once each calendar year, a roster listing the name and locations for each mortgage broker and mortgage lender and a roster of all mortgage loan originators and designated managers and the name of their employing mortgage brokers or employing mortgage lenders. The roster must be available to interested persons and to the general public.

(10) Pursuant to section 1508(d) of the Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act, Title V of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, Public Law 110-289, the department is authorized to:

(a) supervise and enforce the provisions of this part, including the suspension, termination, revocation, or nonrenewal of a license for violation of state or federal law;

(b) participate in the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry;

(c) ensure that all mortgage broker, mortgage lender, and mortgage loan originator applicants under this part apply for state licensure and pay any required nonrefundable fees to and maintain a valid unique identifier issued by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry; and

(d) regularly report violations of state or federal law and enforcement actions to the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry.

(11) (a) The department may, if the U.S. department of housing and urban development determines that a provision of this part does not meet the requirements of the Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act, Title V of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, Public Law 110-289, or that additional persons are subject to this part, refrain from enforcing the provision that is determined to be

noncompliant and shall by rule invalidate any noncompliant exemption to this part or require that additional persons be temporarily subject to this part to be compliant with federal law, including the provisions for licensure and registration with and maintenance of a valid unique identifier with the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry.

(b) The department shall propose to the regular session of the legislature that follows the determination by the U.S. department of housing and urban development legislation to address the incompatibility with federal law. The provisions that the United States department of housing and urban development determines to not be in compliance with the requirements of the Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act, Public Law 110-289, must be amended in the correcting legislation.

History: En. Sec. 19, Ch. 516, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 4, Ch. 136, L. 2005; amd. Sec. 16, Ch. 498, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 31, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-131. Repealed. Sec. 18, Ch. 498, L. 2007.

History: En. Sec. 20, Ch. 516, L. 2003.

32-9-132. Injunctions -- receivers. (1) Whenever the department has reasonable cause to believe that any person is violating or is threatening to violate this part or a rule adopted under this part, the department may, in addition to all actions provided for in this part and without prejudice to those actions, seek an order requiring the person to desist or to refrain from the violation.

(2) An action may be brought by the department in the district court of the first judicial district, Lewis and Clark County, to enjoin the person from engaging in or continuing the violation or from doing any act or acts in furtherance of the violation. In any action, a preliminary or final injunction may be ordered as considered proper.

(3) In addition to all other means provided by law for the enforcement of a restraining order or injunction, the court in which the action is brought may impound and appoint a receiver for the property and business of the defendant, including books, papers, documents, or records pertaining to the property or business, or as much of the property or business as the court considers reasonably necessary to prevent violations of this part. The receiver, when appointed and qualified, has the powers and duties as to custody, collection, administration, winding up, and liquidation of the property and business that are conferred upon the receiver by the court.

History: En. Sec. 21, Ch. 516, L. 2003.

32-9-133. Penalties -- restitution. (1) If the department finds, after providing a 10-day written notice that includes a statement of alleged violations and a hearing or an opportunity for hearing, as provided in the Montana Administrative Procedure Act, that any person, licensee, or officer, agent, employee, or representative of the person or licensee, whether licensed or unlicensed, has violated any of the provisions of this part, has failed to comply with the rules, instructions, or orders promulgated by the department, has failed or refused to make required reports to the department, has furnished false information to the department, or has operated without a required

license, the department may impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000 for the first violation and not to exceed \$10,000 for each subsequent violation.

(2) The department may issue an order requiring restitution to borrowers and reimbursement of the department's cost in bringing the administrative action. In addition, the department may issue an order revoking, conditioning, or suspending the right of the person or licensee, directly or through an officer, agent, employee, or representative, to do business in this state as a licensee or to engage in the mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan origination business.

(3) All notices, hearing schedules, and orders must be mailed to the person or licensee by certified mail to the address for which the license was issued or in the case of an unlicensed business to the last-known address of record.

(4) The fines must be deposited in the department's account in the state special revenue fund and used to administer the provisions of this part.

(5) In addition to the penalties in subsection (1), a person practicing as a mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage loan originator without being licensed as required under subsection (1) is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine of not less than \$250 or more than \$1,000, by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than 90 days or more than 1 year, or both. Each violation of the provisions of subsection (1) constitutes a separate offense.

History: En. Sec. 22, Ch. 516, L. 2003; amd. Sec. 17, Ch. 498, L. 2007; amd. Sec. 32, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-134 through 32-9-140 reserved.

32-9-141. Investigations by department -- subpoenas -- oaths -- examination of witnesses and evidence. (1) For the purposes of this part, the department or the department's authorized representatives must be given free access to the offices and places of business and files of all licensees. The department may investigate any matter, upon complaint or otherwise, if it appears that a person has engaged in or offered to engage in any act or practice that is in violation of any provision of this part or any rule adopted or order issued by the department pursuant to this part.

(2) The department may issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents, papers, books, records, and other evidence before it in any matter over which it has jurisdiction, control, or supervision pertaining to this part. The department may administer oaths and affirmations to a person whose testimony is required.

(3) If a person refuses to obey a subpoena or to give testimony or produce evidence as required by the subpoena, a judge of the district court of Lewis and Clark County or the county in which the licensed premises are located may, upon application and proof of the refusal, issue a subpoena or subpoena duces tecum for the witness to appear before the department to give testimony and produce evidence as may be required. The clerk of court shall then issue the subpoena, as directed, under the seal of the court, requiring the person to whom it is directed to appear at the time and place designated in the subpoena.

(4) If a person served with a subpoena refuses to obey the subpoena or to give

testimony or produce evidence as required by the subpoena, the department may proceed under the contempt provisions of Title 3, chapter 1, part 5.

(5) Failure to comply with the requirements of a court-ordered subpoena is punishable pursuant to [45-7-309](#).

History: En. Sec. 13, Ch. 498, L. 2007.

32-9-142. Cease and desist orders. (1) If it appears to the department that a person has engaged in or is about to engage in any act or practice constituting a violation of any provision of this part or any rule adopted or order issued by the department pursuant to this part, the department may issue an order directing the person to cease and desist from continuing the act or practice after reasonable notice and opportunity for a hearing. The order may apply only to the alleged act or practice constituting a violation of this chapter. The department may issue a temporary order pending the hearing that:

(a) remains in effect until 10 days after the hearings examiner issues proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law and a proposed order; or

(b) becomes final if the person to whom notice is addressed does not request a hearing within 10 days after receipt of the notice.

(2) A violation of an order issued pursuant to this section is subject to the penalty provisions of this part.

History: En. Sec. 14, Ch. 498, L. 2007.

32-9-143 through 32-9-144 reserved.

32-9-145. Escrow fund. (1) An escrow fund authorized for any purpose by a mortgage loan contract is subject to applicable state and federal requirements. Money received from a borrower by a mortgage lender licensed under this part must be considered as held in trust immediately upon receipt. The mortgage lender shall place escrow funds in a depository institution prior to the end of the third business day following their receipt.

(2) An escrow fund account must be a separate account established to hold only borrowers' funds. The account must be designated and maintained for the benefit of borrowers. Escrow funds may not be commingled with any other funds.

(3) Escrow funds must be kept in the segregated account until disbursement. Money maintained in an escrow fund account is exempt from execution, attachment, or garnishment.

(4) A licensee may not encumber the corpus of an escrow fund account or commingle other operating funds with account funds.

(5) An escrow fund account may be used only for:

(a) a payment authorized by the borrower or the mortgage loan contract or required by federal or state law;

(b) a refund to the borrower;

(c) transfer to a depository institution;

(d) transfer to the appropriate mortgage lender or mortgage servicer in the case of a transfer of servicing;

(e) a purpose authorized by the mortgage loan contract; or

(f) purposes of complying with an order issued by the commissioner or a court.

(6) Accounting for escrow funds must be performed in compliance with the aggregate accounting rules established in regulation X, 24 CFR 3500, and in compliance with [71-1-115](#).

History: En. Sec. 23, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-146 through 32-9-147 reserved.

32-9-148. Disclosure of mortgage costs by mortgage lender. (1) Within 3 business days of taking a mortgage loan application and prior to receiving any consideration from the borrower, the mortgage lender shall disclose the terms of the loan to the borrower in compliance with the disclosure requirements of the federal Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, 12 U.S.C. 2601, et seq., the federal Truth in Lending Act, 15 U.S.C. 1601, et seq., and any regulations promulgated under those acts.

(2) A mortgage lender shall disclose the terms of any prepayment penalty on the mortgage loan, including the amount of the prepayment penalty or the formula for calculating the prepayment penalty. If the initial mortgage loan offer does not include a prepayment penalty, but a prepayment penalty is later included in the mortgage loan offer, disclosure of the terms of the prepayment penalty must be made within 3 business days of the prepayment penalty being added to the mortgage loan offer.

(3) A licensed mortgage lender may not require a borrower to pay any fees or charges prior to the mortgage loan closing, except:

(a) charges to be incurred by the mortgage lender on behalf of the borrower for services from third parties necessary to process the application, such as credit reports and appraisals;

(b) an application fee;

(c) an interest rate lock-in fee if the borrower is provided an interest rate lock-in agreement, the terms of which must include but are not limited to:

(i) the expiration date of the interest rate lock-in agreement;

(ii) the principal amount of the mortgage loan, the term of the mortgage loan, and identification of the residential real estate;

(iii) the initial interest rate and the discount points to be paid; and

(iv) the amounts and payment terms of the interest rate lock-in, along with a statement as to whether the fee is refundable and the terms and conditions necessary to obtain a refund; and

(d) a loan commitment fee, upon approval of the mortgage loan application, if the borrower is provided with a loan commitment in writing that is signed by the mortgage lender and the borrower and the terms include the terms and conditions of the mortgage loan as well as the terms and conditions of the loan commitment, including but not limited to:

(i) the time period during which the loan commitment is irrevocable and may be accepted by the borrower, which may not be less than 7 calendar days from the date of the loan commitment or the date of mailing, whichever is later;

(ii) the amount and payment terms of the loan commitment fee, along with a statement as to whether the fee is refundable and the terms and conditions necessary

to obtain a refund;

(iii) the expiration date of the loan commitment;

(iv) conditions precedent to closing; and

(v) the terms and conditions, if any, for obtaining a refund of fees for third-party services or arranging for the transfer of third-party service work products to another mortgage lender.

(4) Any amount collected under subsection (3) in excess of the actual costs must be returned to the borrower within 60 days after rejection, withdrawal, or closing.

(5) (a) Except as provided in subsection (5)(b), fees or charges collected pursuant to this section, other than fees for third-party services collected pursuant to subsection (3)(a), must be refunded if a valid loan commitment is not produced or if closing does not occur.

(b) Applicable fees may be retained by the licensee in accordance with the terms of the loan commitment upon the licensee's ability to demonstrate any of the following:

(i) the borrower withdraws the mortgage loan application after the lender has issued a loan commitment on the same terms and conditions disclosed to the borrower on the most recent good faith estimate;

(ii) the borrower has made a material misrepresentation or omission on the mortgage loan application; or

(iii) the borrower has failed to provide documentation necessary to the processing or closing of the mortgage loan application and closing does not occur without fault of the lender.

History: En. Sec. 24, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-149 reserved.

32-9-150. Unique identifier for mortgage brokers, mortgage lenders, mortgage loan originators, and registered mortgage loan originators. (1) Each licensed mortgage broker, mortgage lender, and mortgage loan originator shall post the mortgage broker's, mortgage lender's, or mortgage loan originator's unique identifier in a conspicuous place within the office where the licensee principally transacts business.

(2) The department shall post on its website the names of all licensees, together with their license numbers. In conjunction with that posting, the department shall also provide the unique identifier of all licensed mortgage brokers, mortgage lenders, and mortgage loan originators so that consumers, borrowers, and the public may access that information for use in conjunction with the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry.

(3) The department shall also post on its website the names and unique identifiers of all registered mortgage loan originators conducting business in the state.

History: En. Sec. 28, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-151. Mortgage call reports. Each mortgage broker and mortgage lender entity shall submit to the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry reports of

condition, which must be in the form and must contain information that the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry may require.

History: En. Sec. 29, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-152 through 32-9-154 reserved.

32-9-155. Nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry information challenge process. The department shall establish a process under which mortgage brokers, mortgage lenders, and mortgage loan originators may challenge information entered into the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry by the department.

History: En. Sec. 30, Ch. 321, L. 2009.

32-9-156 through 32-9-159 reserved.

32-9-160. Confidentiality. (1) (a) Except as otherwise provided in section 1512 of the Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act, Title V of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, Public Law 110-289, the requirements under federal law, the Montana constitution, or Montana law regarding the privacy or confidentiality of any information or material provided to the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry and any privilege arising under federal or state law, including the rules of a federal or state court, pertaining to the information or material continue to apply to the information or material after the information or material has been disclosed to the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry.

(b) Information and material may be shared with all state and federal regulatory officials with mortgage industry oversight authority and with the board of governors of the federal reserve system without the loss of confidentiality protections or the loss of privilege provided by federal law, the Montana constitution, or Montana law.

(2) The department may enter into agreements or sharing arrangements with other governmental agencies, the conference of state bank supervisors, the American association of residential mortgage regulators, or associations representing governmental agencies as established by rule of the department.

(3) Information or material subject to confidentiality or a privilege under subsection (1) is not subject to:

(a) disclosure under a federal or state law governing disclosure to the public of information held by an officer or an agency of the federal government or the respective state; or

(b) subpoena, discovery, or admission into evidence in any private civil action or administrative process unless, with respect to any privilege held by the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry concerning the information or material, the person to whom the information or material pertains waives, in whole or in part, that privilege.

(4) Montana law relating to the disclosure of confidential supervisory information or information or material described in subsection (1) that is inconsistent with subsection (1) is superseded by the requirements of section 1512 of the Secure and Fair

Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act, Title V of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, Public Law 110-289.

(5) Examination reports, information contained in examination reports, and examiners' work papers are confidential, subject to the licensee's and any uninvolved person's reasonable expectation of privacy and, although filed with the department as provided in this part, are not subject to public inspection.

(6) This section does not apply to information or material relating to the employment history of and publicly adjudicated disciplinary and enforcement actions against mortgage lenders, mortgage brokers, and mortgage loan originators included in the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry that is available for public access.

History: En. Sec. 33, Ch. 321, L. 2009.